



FACT SHEET

Foster Grandparents

The Foster Grandparent Program (FGP) is part of Senior Corps, a network of national service programs that provide older Americans the opportunity to put their life experiences to work for local communities. Foster Grandparents serve as mentors, tutors, and caregivers for at-risk children and youth with special needs through a variety of community organizations, including schools, hospitals, drug treatment facilities, correctional institutions, and Head Start and day-care centers. In fiscal year 2001 more than 30,000 Foster Grandparents tended to the needs of 275,000 young children and teenagers.

Eligibility

The Foster Grandparent Program is open to people age 60 and over with limited incomes. All applicants undergo a background check and a telephone interview, as well as pre-service and in-service training. Foster Grandparents serve 20 hours a week.

Partners/Operations

Local nonprofit organizations and public agencies receive grants to sponsor and operate local Foster Grandparent projects. Organizations that address the needs of abused and neglected children, troubled teens, young mothers, premature infants, and children with physical disabilities work with the local Foster Grandparent program to place and coordinate the services of the Foster Grandparent volunteers. These local partners are called volunteer stations. Volunteer stations include children's services agencies, child- and youth-oriented charities, and faith-based institutions.

Volunteer Benefits

For their service, Foster Grandparents receive \$2.65 an hour (tax free), reimbursement for transportation, meals during service, annual physical examinations, and accident and liability insurance while on duty.

Budget

FGP's fiscal year 2001 federal budget of \$98.8 million was matched with \$40 million contributed by states, local governments, and the private sector. Its fiscal year 2002 enacted budget is \$106.7 million.

Senior Corps Network

The Foster Grandparent program is part of Senior Corps, which also includes RSVP (the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program) and the Senior Companion program. Senior Corps is administered by the Corporation for National and Community Service, which also oversees AmeriCorps and Learn and Serve America. Together, these programs engage more than 2 million Americans of all ages in service to their communities each year.

More Information

To learn more about Foster Grandparents and other Senior Corps programs, call 800-424-8867 or TTY 800-833-3722 or go to www.seniorcorps.org.

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